

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 13 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Negrisoli et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,973,199, in view of Llewellyn. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0077902 A1.

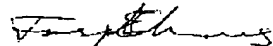
Negrisoli is known, and in fact is referred to in the background of the present application. Llewellyn has a filing date, October 18, 2002, that is later than the present claims' conception and reduction to practice, which is as early as May 6, 2002, as established by the enclosed 1.131 Declaration of the Inventor Matthias Boldt.

Therefore, as Applicant is able to swear behind Llewellyn, removing the reference from consideration, the proposed combination fails. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-13, and allowance of all claims.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, for the reasons given above, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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